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SERMON

Being an Incouragement for *PROTESTANTS*, or Happy Proſpect of Glorious Succeſs: With Exhortations to be Valiant againſt our Enemies, in oppoſing the Bloody Principles of *PAPISTS*, and Errors of *POPERY*, *&c.*

Occaſionally on the *Proteſtants* Victory over the

***FRENCH* and *IRISH* Papiſts**

BEFORE

London-Derry,

In Raiſing that Deſperate SIEGE, a Glorious Proſpect of the *Proteſtants* Happineſs, *&c.*

By Mr. *WALKER* Miniſter, and Governor of the City.

Judges VII. XX.

The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.

WE may through all the Courſe of Holy Scripture, plainly behold that when the Almighty deſigned to work out a Deliverance to his People, he made them ſenſible that it was not ſo much the Arms of Fleſh, as his immediat Power that ſaved them. The *Iſraelites* at the time that God raiſed up *Gideon* the Son of *Joaſh*, to be an Inſtrument in his Hand of ſaving them, were oppreſſed by the

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WE may through all the Course of Holy Scripture, plainly behold that when the Almighty designed to work out a Deliverance to his People, he made them sensible that it was not so much the Arms of Flesh, as his immediat Power that saved them. The *Israelites* at the time that God raised up *Gideon* the Son of *Joash*, to be an Instrument in his Hand of saving them, were oppressed by the

Midianites and *Amalekites*, a cruel and wastful People that spared no Means that Force or Fraud could invent to vex them, and lay their Countrey Desolate, to draw them away to Idolatry, and the Worship of strange Gods, which their Fathers had not known; and least they should seem to attribute the Victory to multitudes, and not give the sole Glory to the God of Battles; This great Captain had an express Command, to try first their Courage and Resolution, and after that proving too many, they were selected at the Water-Brook, where three hundred only were chosen, and with that small number, the mighty Army was overthown, destroyed, broken, and confounded at first onset by the breaking of Pitchers, and sounding of Trumpets, and crying, *The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon*, Judges 7. 20. *Let but the Lord arise*, (sayes Holy *David*) *and his enemies shall be scattered*: (And again) *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble: Therefore will we not fear though the earth be moved, and though the Mountains be carried into the midst of the Sea; Though the Waters thereof roar, and be troubled*, Psal. 46. 1, 2, 3. We find that when *Samaria* was Besieged, and even Famine raged in the City to a Degree, that a Woman was forced to eat the fruits of her Womb, when all visible Means failed, and an Insulting Enemy every day expected to enter the City, and bring it to a final Desolation; that only a noise being heard in the Hills and Mountains, raised the Siege, and gave abundance of plenty to the Besieged, according as the Prophet had foretold. And *Senacheribs* Host trusting in the Arm of Flesh, and the multitude of Horses and Chariots, found themselves insensibly Defeated by the Revenging Sword of the Destroying Angel, falling dead, by the mighty stroak of an Invisible Power, whose Force they felt, but knew no way to resist, or fly from, till 80000 of them were scatter'd in the Chains of Death. And upon consideration of these, and the like Deliverances, Holy *David* says, to comfort himself, and his

his People, *viz. The Lord of Hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our Refuge; come, behold the Work of the Lord, what desolation he hath made in the earth, he maketh Wars to cease unto the end of the earth, he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder, and burneth the Chariot with fire: Be still, and know that I am God, I will be exalted amongst the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of Hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge*, Psal. 46. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. For although God makes Man for the most part the Instrument in his hand, the more visibly to bring about his purposes; yet without the Operation of Almighty Power and Wisdom, Mens Devices are brought to nought, for here we find, that when *Gideon* came to behold the Camp of the enemy, *The Midianites, and Amalekites, and all the Children of the Host lay along in the Valley like Grashoppers for multitude, and their Camels were without number, as the Sand of the Sea*, Judges 7. 12. Yet this great Army that had so long been the wastful Terrour of the Countrey, was put into such a fear at the cry of *the Sword of the Lord, and Gideon*, that they were utterly confounded, and knew not what they did; for as we find it in *vers.* 21, 22. of the foregoing Chapter, *viz. And they stood every man in his place round about the Camp, and all the Host ran, and cryed, and fled, and the three hundred blew the Trumpets, and the Lord set every mans Sword against his fellow, even throughout all the Host, and the Host fled*, &c. By this we may see, it was more through Fear and Distraction they were broken, than through any slaughter the three hundred *Israelites* were capable of making amongst so great a Company of men. *David* incouraged by God, pursued the *Amalekites* that burnt *Ziklag*, and with four hundred Men fell upon those that had taken the spoil, and with four hundred Men Defeated their great Army, recovering what ever had been taken away. *Barach* and *Deborah* Defeated *Jabin*'s great Host, Destroying it together with *Sisera* its Captain, who fell in *Jael*'s Tent. *Sampson* with his single Arm,

routed at ſundry times, the Powers of the *Philiſtines*; ſo that we ſee that God confounds ſtrength with weakneſs, for when men preſume too much on the Arm of Fleſh, they frequently deceive themſelves: and in the midſt of their ſecurity are overthrown: Therefore let a good Chriſtian conſider that his ſtrength is in the Lord, and if God be on his ſide, he need not be afraid, though danger beſet him round about; but be comforted, and make valiant by the words of the Kingly Prophet, *viz. The Lord is my light, and my ſalvation, whom ſhall I fear: the Lord is the ſtrength of my life, of whom ſhall I be afraid: When the wicked, even mine enemies, and my foes came upon me to eat up my fleſh, they ſtumbled and fell: Though an Hoſt ſhould encamp againſt me, my heart ſhall not fear, though War ſhall ariſe againſt me, in this will I be confident,* Pſal. 27. 1, 2, 3. This ought to be the confidence, and courageous reſolution of every Chriſtan, eſpecially Soldiers, who carry their Lives in their hands, and are ſaid to live on the brink of the Grave. Above all in a good Cauſe, and the Defence of the Sacred Truth, when their Religion is in danger, and the Enemy ſeeks not to gain a Dominion over their Bodies, but over their Souls, to obſcure the Light of the Goſpel, and Cloud a Kingdom in Darkneſſe and Ignorance: Let them take Example by the Valiant *Maccabees*, who when they beheld their Holy Things Prophaned and Trampled under Foot by an idolatrous People, their Alter polluted, and their Sanctuaries in danger to be defiled; they took up the Sword of *Gideon*, and ſtood more for their Religion than for their Lives, nor was the Sword of the Lord wanting to give them ſucceſs over their Enemies, and to Redeem their Bleeding Countrey from the Diſtraction and Deſolation it groaned under; nor may we ſpare to come nearer home, and find innumerable inſtances of God's raiſing up *Gideons* to ſave theſe Kingdoms, not only from Barbarous Nations, who in early times have invaded them, but from a Papal Tyranny, from Plots

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and Conſpiracies, that have laboured to make their glory ſet in Blood and Ruine. *Henry* the Eight was raiſed up to ſcatter the *Midianites*, and *Amalekites* of *Rome*, whoſe Idolatries and Superſtitions had infected our *Iſrael*, and whoſe Pride and Luxury had laid waſte their pleaſant places, and deſtroyed the good things of the Land: This, I ſay, is the Sword of the Lord, and of *Gideon*, for God made this Prince an Inſtrument in his hand: This was the Lord's doings, and it is marvelous in our Eyes; and in the next place, he raiſed up a good *Joſia* in the perſon of *Edward* the Sixth, and under him, gave us the Purity and Light of the Goſpel, in its primitive Luſtre, brighter than the Morning Star, and though after the death of this good Prince, he withheld his Sword, and ſuffered us to be cruſhed under the mercileſs hands of our enemies; yet the Bloody Reign of of Q. *Mary* once over, wherein our Adverſaries diſplayed themſelves in their true Colours, feaſting Flames with Martyrs precious Blood, at ſuch a Riotous profuſeneſs, as no Barbarous Nation had equalled, he heard the Groans of his ſuffering people, and ſent us a deliverance, *The Sword of the Lord, and of* Gideon, was again on our ſide, as appeard in the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, who was valiant for the Truth, and in ſpite of all the Conſpiracies, to raiſe a Rebellion, or bring her to an untimely end, by Poyſon, Daggers, and many pernicious Devices; ſhe ſtood the *Gideon*, or *Deborah* of our Land, and though *Spain* fill'd the Seas with floating Caſtles to deſtroy this flouriſhing Kingdom, yet the Almighty by a ſmall number manifeſtly bared his Arm to ſave us, and ruine thoſe that were too confident in the Arm of Fleſh, not only deſtroying that huge Armado, but routing ſuch Forces, as the *Spaniards* ſent into *Ireland*, to aſſiſt the Bloody *Iriſh Papiſts*, in Rebellion againſt their lawful Soveraign, comitting ſuch Cruelties as are too tedious here to mention; and although in the fruſtration of their Plots and Devices, they might well have perceived the immediat hand of Heaven, protecting this great and proſperous Queen;

yet ſo far were they infatuated, or tranſported with inſeperable Malice and Revenge, that though their Attempts coſt many of them their lives, yet no ſooner was the wiſe *Proteſtant* Prince King *James* the firſt advanced to the Throne, but they went to exalt him in a blaſt to the Skies, had not their *Powder-Plot* been diſcovered by the Divine Hand of Providence, who blaſted it; all which well conſidered, may make us confeſs with the Royal Prophet, *viz. We have thought of thy loving kindneſs, O God, in the midſt of thy Temple, according to thy Name, O God, ſo is thy praiſe unto the ends of the earth; thy right hand is full of righteouſneſs: Let Mount Sion rejoyce, let the Daughter of Juda be glad, becauſe of thy Judgment*, Pſal. 49. verſe 9. 10. 11.

And now not without Tears of Compaſſion, we cannot but reflect on the Popiſh Cruelty in the poor Kingdom of *Ireland*; in the Reign of King *Charles* the firſt, *Anno* 1641. when without any provocation, Armed with Helliſh Rage, and the natural Cruelty of a Papiſt, they by inhumane Torments, Maſſacred no leſs than 200000 *Engliſh Proteſtants*, of all Ages and Sex; inſomuch that the Dead Bodies not being ſuffered by the Prieſts to be buried; Created a Contagion, and in ſome meaſure took revenge on the Murtherers; and what can we think? but at this day a *Papiſt* is a *Papiſt* ſtill, where even the Principle of Religion inſtills a kind of Fierceneſs and Barbarity into their Nature: Nay, if we reflect, what in a few Moneths they have done, what better can be expected, if we conſider the Spoil, Plunder, Ravagements, and Deſolations the *French* and *Iriſh* in Arms have made, regarding neither Oaths, Promiſes, nor nearneſs of Relation; with a deſire utterly to Root the *Engliſh* out of the Kingdom, with a further deſign of carrying on their Miſchievous Enterprizes againſt the *Proteſtant* Religion; In general, it is time for *Proteſtants* to become Valiant for the Truth, and bold as Lyons, not only for the Religion, but temporal Intereſt, the preſervation of their Wives and Children, from Murthers, Rapes, and Deflowrings,

ings, and all manner of Violence and Wickedneſs: to ſtand as Bulwarks againſt the Rapid Inundation of Antichriſtian Tyranny. Let us conſider that the Fowls of the Air, and the Beaſts of the Forreſt, ſtand in the defence of their own lives, and the lives of their young Ones, with ſuch Weapons as Nature has afforded them: And ſhall not men in ſuch a caſe pluck up their Spirits, and redouble their Courage, ſince the Almighty has of late been ſo favourable in giving us, even by Miracle, a *Proteſtant* King and Queen to ſit upon the Throne, and ſo great a Proſpect of a through deliverance; we are here Members of the Church Militant: Let us not be aſhamed, or afraid of our profeſſion, when maintaining our Chriſtian Warefare in a good Conſcience, and a juſt Cauſe, we make our way to the Church which is Triumphant, where God ſhall wipe away all Tears from our Eyes, *And there ſhall be no more Death, neither ſorrow nor crying, neither ſhall there be any more pain, for the former things paſs away*, Revel. 21, 4. Though never ſo many Storms and Tempeſts threaten; yet a good Chriſtian ought not to be diſmayed, though in a time, even when danger does beſet them: yet it is required, they ſhould humble themſelves before their Maker, and Rely on him, who is able to ſave to the utmoſt, all that truſt in him: For indeed, Sin is that which provokes him to with-hold his mercy, and bring calamities on Nations, & Kingdoms, it was always well with the ſeed of *Jacob*, when they clave faſt to the Rock of their Salvation; but when they grew Regardleſs, he gave them up to the oppreſſing Nations, who grieved his choſen Heritage; for as 'tis ſaid Pſal. 18. ver. 25, 26, 27. *viz. With the Merciful, thou wilt ſhew thy ſelf Merciful; and with an upright man thou wilt ſhew thy ſelf upright; with the pure, thou wilt ſhew thy ſelf pure; with the froward, thou wilt ſhew thy ſelf froward: For thou wilt ſave the afflicted people, but wilt bring down high looks.* Niniveh humbling her ſelf in Sackcloath and Aſhes before the Lord, was ſaved from impendent

dent Wrath, when ſtubborn *Sodom*, and Impenitent *Gomorah* ſunk in Sulpherous fire; let us turn then to the Lord with our whole hearts, and ſing praiſe unto our deliverer, that our Enemies, and all thoſe that ſeek to hurt us, may fall before us: 'Tis a good Conſcience, and an aſſurance in Gods mercy's that makes men valiant; *Abraham* on this ſcore purſued the Kings, and reſcued his Brother *Lot*, &c. out of their hands: *David* in this aſſurance undauntedly marched againſt the mighty Champion of the *Philiſtines*; and with inconſiderable Weapons, as knowing God ſaves neither by Spear nor Shield, no more than by weak means, when he reſolves to manifeſt his power, or intends to ſave, he overcame the man that had ſo long defied the Armies of *Iſrael*: For when the great *Jehovah* was deſigned to ſhow his laſt Judgment upon *Pharaoh*, and his purſuing Hoſt in the Red Sea, and *Iſrael* cryed out for fear, they were only commanded to ſtand ſtill, and ſee the Salvation of the Lord, and they even without contributing any help of their own, found themſelves not only ſecured from the danger they feared, and a little before had threatned them, but ſaw their deſire upon their Enemies; the Element heard the voice of its Creator, and returned with violence to let the ſtubborn Monarch know, that the higheſt Rules in the Kingdoms of men, in whoſe hands are all the Kingdoms of the Earth, and all the breath of life. There is a Sword of the Lord, and a Sword of Man; againſt the firſt there is no prevailing, but the latter is weak, if the firſt be wanting: God if he pleaſes can arm all the Elements to fight for his Servants, as he did the Hail in the time of *Joſhua* by which there fell more than by the Swords of the *Iſraelites*; or incloſe his people with Fiery Camps of Armed Angels, as he did *Eliſha*, when his life was ſought for by the *Aſſyrians*. Truſt in the Lord, and he will be to his Servants a Wall of Defence, and a ſtrong Tower, a Buckler, a Shield, and a mighty Deliverer; who has power to do what he pleaſes, in Heaven and Earth, whoſe Will is Fate, and whoſe Decrees are irreſiſtable

ſiſtable and irreverſable: Let us but call upon him ſincerely, with a true heart, and unfeigned lips, and he will hear us, and deliver us out of all our trouble: Let us not then be afraid of their terrour that ſeek to harm us, but aſſuredly reſt ſecure in his protection, whoſe mercies are over all the works of his Creation, and he will keep us from the Arrows that fly by Night, and the Shafts, though go abroad by day, the Adverſary ſhall have no advantage over us: Therefore let us acquit our ſelves like men, and not faint, or grow weary: Let fear fly our Breaſts, and let us Arm our ſelves with Courage in a good Cauſe; and conſider that the God of Battels, the Lord of Hoſts is the diſpoſer of all things, and if the Lord be with us, who ſhall be againſt us, and proſper? for there is a Sword of the Lord and a Sword of *Gideon.*

Thus by extraordinary means does the Almighty ſave, when he bares his Arm to make his power known to the Sons of Men; then happy are all they that truſt in him, for they ſhall never be confounded, their Enemies ſhall come out one way, and flee ſeven; the *Lord* ſhall draw a Sword after them, and they ſhall be ſcattered, even from Heaven ſhall they be diſcomfited, and ſcattered o're the face of the earth, as in *Judges* 3. 2. *They fought from Heaven, the Stars in their courſes fought againſt* Siſera. If Heaven be on our ſide, in vain is the Combination of man, for who is able to ſtand before that mighty God, whoſe very looks drieth up the deep, and whoſe wrath maketh the Mountains to melt, before whoſe Majeſty *Job* confeſſeth himſelf to fail and tremble, like one in a ſtormy Tempeſt, and that his fear was ſo great, that he was not able to bear it; nor can his hand be ſhortened, that he will not ſave thoſe that ſtand for his truth; ſuce as are valiant for the promotion of God's honour, are ſaid to fight the Lords Battel; that is, he owns them to be his Souldiers, and he puts power and ſtrength into their hands, as he did into his Servant *Joſhua*'s, when he made the Heavenly Bodies,

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contrary to the course of nature, obey a Mortal Voice, the Sun and Moon stood still till his people had accomplished their desire upon their Enemies, as we find it in *Joshua* 10. 13. And when *Moses* held but up his hand, the *Israelites* prevailed, for there is nothing too hard for the Lord, when he designs to bring about his purposes: *I called on the Lord in my distress* (says holy *David*) *the Lord answered me, and set me in a large place; the Lord is on my side, I will not fear what man can do unto me: The Lord taketh my part with them that help me, therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me; it is better to trust in the Lord, than to put confidence in Princes; all Nations compassed me about, but in the Name of the Lord will I destroy them*, Psal. 118. v. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Thus we may behold, how a good Cause puts life into the Soul, and makes the Spirit rise to the extreamest height of valour, banishing the image of fear, by a confident assurance of success, makes Men bold as Lyons, and unwary in their undertakings. This made *Nehemiah* couragious for the House of God, and for his Sanctuary, when he caused the very Work-men to arm at their labour, having their Swords in their hands, even whilst they were building, and repairing the City of *Jerusalem*, to prevent and repel their treacherous Enemies, who sought always to surprize and bring them to destruction; Let us take Courage then, and faint not, but acquit your selves like men.

A *Proteſtant* Prayer for our Deliverance from *Popiſh Enemies*, and for future *Succeſs*.

O *Lord God, Holy and Glorious, in whoſe hands are all the ends of the Earth, thou God of Battles, on whom all Succeſs and Victory depends; look down upon us thy poor afflicted Servants, pardon our Sins, and paſs by the multitude of our Tranſgreſſions; ſave us, ſave us, O Lord, from the Malice and Hatred of our Implacable Enemies, Defeat their Plots, and Confound their Devices, and let them know, neither Policy, nor the Arm of Fleſh can do any thing againſt thoſe thou art pleaſed to take into thy eſpecial Care and Protection; Give us Courage to be Valiant for thy Revealed Truth in the Goſpel of thy dear Son, our ever bleſſed Lord and Saviour, and ever Defend us from the Clouds and Miſts of Popery and Error; give us hearts to Fear, and Reverence thy Holy Name, that all our Actions and Undertakings may redound to thy Honour and Glory, through Jeſus Chriſt: To whom with Thee, and Thy Holy Spirit, be all Power, Praiſe, and Dominion, World without end.* Amen.

Printed at *London*, and Re-Printed at *Edinburgh*, 1689.